



August 2011

News from Madison County Commission District 6 Commissioner Bob Harrison

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Looking to Serve Alabama?

There are volunteer
reception centers located
around the state. For a list of
these locations
visit www.servealabama.gov.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Upcoming Events

August 20, 2011
C.A.F.Y.
What- A City Wide Event for
Huntsville Youth Grades 7-12
Who: Sponsored by the Huntsville
Police Department
Where: Jaycees Building Parking Lot
located at 2180 Airport Road
Time: 10am- 2pm

We are fast approaching the end of summer, and I am looking forward to the possibilities of fall! As our kids are gearing up to begin a new year with a clean slate, we too must seek a renewal of our minds to accomplish the tasks set before us. I thank you for your interest in my e-newsletter, and I encourage you to stay up to date with the latest happenings at District 6!

Yours in Service,
Bob

The Community Harvest Garden

Community Garden open to county residents.

The Community Harvest Garden Initiative is a current project of Commissioner Bob Harrison. The garden is located west of Meridian Street on the Campus of Alabama A&M University. This marks the 19th year of the Garden's operation.



*Community members picking items at
Madison County District 6 Garden*

FREE ADMISSION
FREE FOOD
FUN ACTIVITIES FOR ALL TO ENJOY

Special Guests include: Mayor
Tommy Battle
RSA Commanding Officer- Major
General James Rogers
Pittsburgh Steelers Hall of Former-
John Stallworth
Former UGA All American Player-
Tim Worley

For more information contact Harry
Hobbs, Huntsville Police
Communications Officer @ (256)
425-5307 or
harryhobbs@huntsvilleal.gov

Community Leadership Institute
Alabama A&M University
4900 Meridian Street North
Huntsville, AL

Friday, August 26, 2011 at 5:00 PM
Saturday, August 27, 2011 at 4:00
PM (CT)

Community Leadership Institute

Economic development and
progress requires informed and
active leaders. The purpose of
Community Leaders Institute is to
reinforce this principle and to
emphasize the unique relationship
between environmental protection,
human health, environmental
justice and economic development
as an essential part of community
development.

Registration is FREE but participants
are expected to share information in
their communities.

The garden is open to any county resident regardless of age or income. This initiative is managed by District 6 Foreman Willie McCrary and Jeff Komara. The crops are harvested year round by the community and District 6 staff members. Despite the lack of rain and extremely dry temperatures earlier this summer, the garden yielded an abundance of fresh vegetables.

There is no limit on the number of visits one can make to the Garden, and residents are encouraged to pick enough for 2-3 meals. Special considerations are made for senior citizens and those with medical conditions that prevent their ability to visit the garden. Two years ago the Commissioner installed a fence to provide controlled access to ensure that crops are available to pick for the senior citizens and the disabled. Plans are currently underway to install an irrigation system within the fenced portion of garden.

"There are so many elderly persons in the community with fixed incomes, and this service helps to eliminate some of those burdens by providing fresh veggies" said Mr. Komara. He plans to plant collard greens, cabbage and turnip greens next month for an estimated picking time around mid-November.

Fresh produce and vegetables are immensely important, and the Commissioner is greatly pleased with the success of this initiative. He credits his staff for the diligence in executing this project. Those senior citizens whose conditions absolutely prevent them from picking crops should contact the Commissioner's office at (256)532-1505.

Commissioner Hires Workers for County Storm Debris Removal

Commissioner utilizes grant through ADECA

The storms that ripped through the Tennessee Valley last April left a path of devastation leaving many communities with the task of cleaning up the mess. In early May, Governor Robert Bentley announced a

grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to hire temporary workers to help county governments in the hardest hit areas of the state.



Debris located at park on Spragins Hollow Road in Huntsville

Madison County applied and received approval to hire Utility Workers to assist with clearing debris on public properties affected by the severe weather. Funds were made available through a Federal Workforce Investment Act National Emergency Grant. This project is being administered by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs Workforce Development Division.

In the initial grant eligibility requirements, first priority was given to individuals who were directly displaced or lost employment due to storm damage. However, these criteria were expanded to include those chronically un-employed, and further distressed by a lack of employment opportunities.

Through partnership with Mark Fowler and the North Alabama Career Center, Madison County Commission District 6 has worked diligently to fill 60 positions to assist with clean up and relief efforts. Those hired through this funding appropriation will work to clear debris and assist with demolition, repair, and reconstruction of public properties.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for Workforce Development" said Commissioner Harrison. He hopes the opportunity will spur the skills, talents, and motivations of new hires to obtain full time employment in Madison County." Madison County District 6 utility workers are currently supervised by Alice Sams. Mrs Sams also

manages the Commissioner's Project Focus Program.

Recipients of the Commissioners Project Focus program have greatly benefited from the resources provided through this initiative. For many, this is the first job opportunity after months and perhaps years of inactivity.

Update: Northwest Huntsville Senior Wellness Center

Progress being made on construction of new facility

Considerable progress has been made on the construction of the Northwest Huntsville Senior Wellness Center. The pathway has been cleared to allow the selected general

contractors to enter from the Pulaski Pike entrance. This road once completed will keep construction traffic from disrupting the residential area within the Cedar Point subdivision.



Construction entrance from Pulaski Pike

The initial bids received from the RFP priced the building in excess of the initial budget. The Commissioner is in the process of reviewing the design with the architects, and looking at other potential funding sources to make the determination if any modifications will be made. This review is expected to conclude the week of August 8, 2011. A re-bid for general contractors will occur in September. Once the re-bid occurs, and the general contractor selected, the Commissioner is excited to move ahead with construction of the new building.

Madison County District 6 received matching funds, and a low interest rate Build America Bond allocation to construct a 20,000 square ft. state of the art Senior Wellness Center. The center will be located on 26 acres of land purchased within the Cedar Point subdivision in Northwest Huntsville. Please stay tuned for more updates concerning this initiative.



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Madison County Commission District 6